



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**THREE EL PASO BUSINESSMEN PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO PROVIDE
A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT KICKBACK**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that **Pedro Marquez, Juan Badillo and Martin Barquin**, all of El Paso, Texas, pled guilty to conspiring to provide a kickback in relation to a government contract.

In October 1997, Defendant **Marquez**, as the purchasing agent for a business which had a U.S. Department of Defense prime contract to supply military chemical and biological protective suits, approached Defendants **Badillo** and **Barquin** at their garment cutting business and solicited a kickback in exchange for awarding the cutting business a subcontract to the U. S. Department of Defense prime contract.

According to the indictment, **Marquez** initially demanded that **Badillo** and **Barquin** pay him a kickback of ten cents per garment in exchange for awarding of the cutting contract, but after realizing the magnitude of the cutting project, changed his kickback demand from ten cents per garment to ten percent of the billing the subcontractors submitted to the prime contractor for payment of their cutting services. The total amount of the kickbacks was in excess of \$100,000.00 over a period of almost 5 years.

As a result of today's guilty pleas, each defendant faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. A sentencing date has yet to be scheduled.

This case was investigated by the El Paso Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the U. S. Department of Defense and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Kanof.

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